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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Geographic Area
THRU : Chief, Cartography Division *RM*
FROM : Chief, Far East - W. Hemisphere Branch, D/GC

DATE: 19 January 1956

SUBJECT: Comments on Career Development in the Geographic Area, DRAFT
4 January 1956 (Revised)

This Branch is in agreement with the Career Development Statement for D/GC as revised 4 January 1956. There are a few points which it seems wise to point out at this time as being worthy of further consideration and possible addition to the statement.

1. Is the term, or title, Senior Cartographer on page 6 appropriate in view of current title being Geographer(Cartography)? If we remain as Geographers it might be best to use the title Senior Analyst as in D/GC. The preliminary passages in this statement refer to Area personnel as being primarily Geographers with varying types of assignments between the Divisions. Also the trend in D/GC seems to be to make the nature of the positions more geographic/analytical than cartographic as has been the case before.

2. There is a feeling that it is unrealistic to list attendance at international meetings as a step in the production of a Senior Cartographer (page 7, 2-b, and page 8, 3-f). It is felt that this is something that is done by the Senior Cartographer and not a step in his training. This view is based on observation of what has happened in the past and it is felt that it is something that is not liable to change in the future. There is a feeling in this Branch that foreign travel is of definite benefit to a Cartographer and should be on its own merits rather than tied in solely to attendance at a foreign meeting of some sort.

3. On page 3, paragraph 1 is the statement that, "... Cartographers have opportunities in other highly specialized types of work in the Agency." It is felt that this would have some significance if there were some explanation of what these opportunities might be. The instances of a Cartographer transferring to some other type of specialty in the Agency are rare. Effort has been made by individuals to transfer without much success.

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4. It is recommended that provision be made for refresher or slightly advanced courses in languages be made available in order to maintain a necessary level of proficiency in foreign languages. This idea might well be added to item (1), (c) on page 6.

5. There is no statement regarding steps leading to the position of Deputy Branch Chief, although such experience is listed as pre-requisite for the position of Branch Chief.

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